

**Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
Strategic Plan  
July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018**

**Outcome #1** – A comprehensive strategic plan for the Commonwealth that defines how the state agencies impacted by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement will effectively participate in the program. This plan will be based on accurately reflecting available resources and state priorities to refocus implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) nutrient and sediment reduction goals. (December 31, 2016)

**Outputs** – (Kristen) In developing this plan the following intermediate outputs will be completed:

1. A listing of those elements of the Watershed Agreement where Pennsylvania will continue to focus.
2. The identification of refinements and modifications needed to those Management Strategies and workplans that the state will continue to participate and focus resources.
3. The development of a process for incorporation of the outputs from these workplans into Chesapeake Bay Program grants, status reports and two-year milestone reports for the program.

**Outcome #2** – The development of the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). This plan will be in response to: (December 31, 2018)

- The results of the Bay Program Mid-point Assessment
- EPA Expectations and Planning Targets
- Input from Pennsylvania stakeholders and program participants

**Outputs** – In developing this plan the following intermediate outputs will be completed:

1. (Nicki) Creation of a steering committee, chaired by the DEP Secretary to include the following agencies and partners (September 30, 2016):
  - a. Chesapeake Bay Program Office – Lead Staff
  - b. Department of Agriculture
  - c. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
  - d. State Conservation Commission
  - e. Penn State as a representative of the PA in the Balance initiative
  - f. US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - g. Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
  - h. Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association
  - i. Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors
  - j. County Commissioners Association
  - k. Chesapeake Bay Commission
  - l. Capitol Area Council of Governments
  - m. Susquehanna River Basin Commission
  - n. NOTE: Some level of coordination will also have to occur with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Penn Future and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Whether one or more of these groups is on the steering committee or on the workgroups needs further discussion.
2. (Steering Committee) The identification of subcommittees to focus on elements of the Phase 3 WIP. The chair of each subcommittee will serve on the steering committee. At a minimum, subcommittees will be created to focus on (November 1, 2016):
  - a. Agriculture, chaired by Penn State to include PA in the Balance members

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- b. Stormwater Runoff, chaired by County Commissioners Association or Capitol Area Council of Governments
- c. Wastewater, chaired by Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association
- d. Local Area Targets as defined by the Bay Program Task Force, chaired by County Commissioners Association or Capitol Area Council of Governments
- 3. (Kristen) Continuation and expansion of the DEP Chesapeake Bay Implementation Team or “Dream Team” to include (September 30, 2016):
  - a. Division of Planning & Conservation, Office for Water Resources Planning (as needed)
  - b. Bureau of Clean Water, Water Programs Deputate
    - i. Monitoring and Stream Assessment
    - ii. TMDL
    - iii. Agriculture
    - iv. MS4
  - c. Bureau of Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands (as needed)
    - i. Legacy Sediment
    - ii. Wetlands
    - iii. Post-Construction Stormwater
- 4. (Ted) A clear message as to what the Watershed Model can and cannot do. This message will include a clear description of the enhancements to the Watershed Model for the Midpoint Assessment, the results of the analyses done relative to those enhancements and a clear statement as to the impact these enhancements will have on Pennsylvania. (May 31, 2017)
- 5. (Nicki) A clear message as to what the water quality trends and monitoring data describes and the related policy implications. This includes consideration of the Susquehanna River Reservoir System and the filling of Conowingo Dam. (This will be done in co-operation with the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership) (December 31, 2016)
- 6. (Steering Committee/Kristen) Definition of the outreach and stakeholder process to be implemented for the development of the Phase 3 WIP. This will be coordinated by the Bay Program Office, in co-operation with the Steering Committee. (December 31, 2016)
- 7. (Nicki/Kristen) Timeline and milestones for the finalization of the Phase 3 WIP based on the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership schedule to include meeting schedule for the steering committee and workgroups and the ongoing support of the “Dream Team”. This will be developed in co-operation with the two committees. (November 1, 2016)

**Outcome #3** – The ongoing coordination and implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Restoration Strategy by the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in an effective, streamlined manner.

**Outputs** – To achieve this outcome, the following intermediate outputs will be developed:

- 1. (Nicki/Jill) The protocols and procedures for the evaluation of conservation district programmatic implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Program and use of District Financial Assistance funding. These protocols will be developed in co-operation with program staff, field reps and regional staff. (July 1, 2017)
- 2. (Ted/Jill) The development of a clear, concise data management plan that takes into account the following: (January 1, 2017)
  - a. The use of surveys to validate voluntary BMP implementation such as the Capital RC & D transect surveys and the PSU survey.
  - b. The appropriate expansion of the NRCS Remote Sensing Pilot Project.
  - c. The incorporation of Worldview’s Practicekeeper and the collection of data from the Agricultural Operation Inspections.

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- d. The use of water quality monitoring data and trend analysis data collected by the Bay Program, the US Geological Survey and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.
  - e. The data collected as part of Pennsylvania's approved BMP Verification Program plan.
  - f. The use of GIS or other mapping and modeling tools such as the Precision Conservation Tools created by Chesapeake Conservancy.
3. (Ted) Ongoing oversight, interaction with the Bay Program and management of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model and the data sets that support it. This includes the following: (October 1, 2016)
- a. The development of a matrix that identifies the following:
    - i. Data Set
    - ii. Issues and challenges related to that data set
    - iii. Relative priority for collecting and updating the data set
    - iv. Impact of the data set on the accuracy of the Watershed Model
  - b. The development and submittal of input decks for progress runs using the new BMP Warehouse application.
4. (Kristen) Ongoing support, coordination and communication with the Bay Program partnership and EPA to include:
- a. Support of Commonwealth agency staff on the various teams, workgroups, action teams and steering committees.
  - b. Coordination of EPA Program evaluations, completion of milestone documents and progress reports.
5. Continued support of Department staff responsible for the implementation of elements of the Restoration Strategy to include:
- a. (Kristen) Facilitation of outreach and communication between program staff, State Conservation Commission (SCC) and Department of Agriculture on the Agriculture Inspection Initiative.
  - b. (Ted) Continued support as PracticeKeeper and Worldview's BMP Warehouse applications are developed and deployed to ensure integration with protocols for data submittal to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office for progress runs, etc.
  - c. (Nicki) Facilitation of the Precision Conservation initiative to promote targeted watershed improvements such as the effort now underway in the Chickies Creek watershed.
6. Coordination and targeting of available funding to include the following:
- a. (Nicki/Steph) The ongoing administrative management of the Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program (CBRAP) and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Program grants to include submittal of grant workplans, processing of invoices and tracking of funding.
  - b. (Jill) The tracking of project implementation and the submittal of semi-annual status reports.
  - c. (Nicki) The selection of projects for funding using the Special Project and Local Implementation project funding. (January 1, 2017)
  - d. (Nicki/Steph/Jill) Revisions to the Chesapeake Bay Program Special Project Administrative Manual. (January 1, 2017)

**Outcome #4 – (Kristen/Communications Office)** A Chesapeake Bay Program Office Communications Plan and website that highlights various aspects of the Chesapeake Bay, progress made in the implementation of the Reboot Strategy, components of the Chesapeake Bay Program Mid-point Assessment and the development of the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan.

**Outputs –** To achieve this outcome, the following intermediate steps will be completed:

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1. In partnership with the Communications Office, complete content for the following webpages (September 30, 2016)
  - a. PA Connection – to include basic statistics, identification of streams and counties, a map, description of local water quality
  - b. Bay Office -- Org Chart and Description with contact info of people in the office
  - c. Issues (3 pages) – Sector specific content for agriculture, stormwater runoff and wastewater treatment
  - d. Track PA – Highlight progress in implementation, to include milestones, restoration success stories and inspection dashboards
  - e. Phase 3 WIP – Development of WIP, to include membership of Steering Committee, agendas, materials, etc. and a way to solicit input, provide feedback and comments
  - f. Outreach – In the News
2. Creation of fact sheets, videos as needed, such as:
  - a. Video – What It Means to Have A Farm Inspection?
3. Ongoing enhancement and revisions to the website.
4. Develop communications strategy (December 31, 2016)

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